

Living on Campus – an unique experience!

Living on campus during college is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity! Students may never have the opportunity again to live among their friends, have easy access to academic buildings and be close to campus resources when they need them.

There are many reasons to live on campus such as living in a secure campus community, not worrying about traffic and a commute to campus. Also, having the opportunity to live among classmates where lasting friendships are made.

Living on campus gives students easier access to class meetings, organization functions, a variety of campus events and the campus information about upcoming event. An added bonus is that room and board (meal plan) or apartment rent is paid at the beginning of each semester so there won't be additional monthly rent or utility bills.

TRANSITIONING FROM LIVING AT HOME TO LIVING ON CAMPUS

You may be nervous about having a roommate. It is true that it is rare for roommates to agree on everything, but when roommates take the time to learn about each other and to talk about each other's likes and dislikes, they quickly pave the way for positive living experiences. It helps to begin thinking about how to be a good roommate to someone else.

TIPS ON BEING A GOOD ROOMMATE:

- Communicate
- Be open and friendly
- Set boundaries
- Be understanding
- Ask before borrowing items
- Resolve conflicts
- Respect privacy

If concerns do come up about living with someone or if there is a conflict among residents, it is appropriate to seek help from either the student staff on the floor or the professional staff member who supervise the student staff. Other options are to talk with director of the department of the dean of students. Help is always available.

Other transition issues may come up regarding time management, social habits, choice of friends and study habits. Communicating about these issues up front and at the beginning of the semester can be helpful. Many institutions have first-year students complete a Roommate Agreement form which covers topics such as those mentioned and can also include having discussions about guests in the room, sharing common items and study time preferences.

Whatever concerns or questions a student has, they can get the assistance needed through residence hall staff or other staff at the institutions. As a family, encourage students to reach about themselves for assistance-it is one step in the right direction of their independence.

BENEFITS OF LIVING ON CAMPUS INCLUDE:

- Complete social immersion with peers from various cultures
- Peer-to-peer study sessions and class support
- Eating meals together in the dining hall
- Interacting with faculty and staff outside of the classroom
- Having a caring and supportive staff such as student staff on each floor if the residence hall, and a professional staff member who oversees a resident hall or area, to assist with academic, personal, and social concerns



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